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Volume II, Number 14

Serving Agawam-Feeding Hills-Southwick

April 3, 1979



Laura S. Coppola

Laura Coppola Chosen 'Secretary of the Year'

Ms. Dorothy Ramey, Chairman of the Secretary of the Year Committee of Springfield Chapter, The National Secretaries Association (International) announced recently that Mrs. Laura S. Coppola has been selected as the Chapter's Secretary of the Year. Mrs. Coppola and her husband, Thomas, are residents of Agawam, Ma.

Laura will be presented to chapter members and their guests at the annual Secretaries' Day Dinner-Meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 25 at the Colosseum Banquet House in West Springfield.

She is employed as secretary to G. Barton Griffin, CLU, Regional Vice President, Massachusetts

Mutual Life Insurance Company, Springfield, Ma. During her membership in Springfield Chapter, she has served on various committees and is presently Vice President. She is a member of the Italian Women's Club, the Women's Division of Dante Club, and is currently 2nd Vice President of the United Italian American Club and Societies.

As part of her duties as SOTY, Laura will be competing for the title of Division Secretary of the Year along with other SOTY candidates from the Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont Division. This event will take place at the Sheraton Sturbridge on Saturday, April 28, 1979.

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Library Review Committee Submits Findings

The four member Library Review Committee have finished their investigation into the procedures taken by the Library Building Committee in the construction of the Town's new library. The panel submitted to Town Manager Peter Caputo a report containing five recommendations for future Building Committees to follow on Friday.

The panel, set up by Caputo when members of the Agawam Business Association questioned certain procedures taken by the Building Committee, drafted the investigations final version at a March 27 meeting.

According to committee member Raymond Saracino, the Building Committee conducted the construction of the new Cooper Street facility "within the law".

The committee's recommendations to Caputo came after a number of meetings between Building Committee members Richard Borgatti, George Bickford and Paul Fieldstad, an Ad Hoc panel of Business Association members, and Review Board members Saracino, Mrs. Richard Curry, Thomas Capola and Renee Thomas. Saracino said his panel acted as a mediator during the meetings.

The Review Committee's recommendations are as follows:

1) On future construction projects, the architect be selected and his fee determined by a Building Committee with the approval of the Town Manager.

2) On future construction projects, a Clerk of Works, separate from the architect be hired by the Building Committee with the approval of the Town Manager.

3) The copies of the minutes of the meetings of all governmental bodies be filed in the Town Clerk's office within 30 days of acceptance.

4) On future construction projects, a minimum of five persons should serve as a Building Committee; that no member of a Building Committee shall serve concurrently on other Building Committee's and that no elected town officials be appointed to a Building Committee unless required by law.

5) That the Town of Agawam hire a qualified federal grants person.

According to Saracino, all of the five recommendations

provide Agawam with better "safeguards" in the future construction of public facilities.

After reviewing each recommendation by the Review Board, a brief explanation of each is needed to qualify the committee's findings.

On point number one, Library architect Alfred Casella was hired by Caputo and not the Building Committee. The Review panel feels it to be quite pertinent for the architect to be hired by the Building Committee who will answer to that body and to the Manager.

On point two, it was Casella who hired the Clerk of Works for the Cooper Street facility. This individual is responsible for supervising the operation. The Review Board felt it essential for the Building Committee to directly employ the Clerk of Works who would be answerable to that body and also to the Manager.

Point three addresses the current procedure the Building Committee follows for filing minutes of meetings. Presently, the Building Committee is not required to file meeting minutes until after the project is completed. Under the new rule, that body would have to file meeting minutes within 30 days of acceptance. Thus, the minutes become more easily accessible to the public during the construction of the facility.

On point four, the Review Board apparently believes that Building Committee membership at a minimum of five members would provide more citizen input into the procedure. Also, both Borgatti and Fieldstadt are elected officials and the Review Board feels the Building Committee should be a group of individuals who are not on any other appointed or elected body.

"This is not to take anything away from the individuals on the present building committee.", Saracino said. "We just felt more citizen participation is needed."

Caputo said there already exists a federal grants officer at Town Hall. He said part of the problem is that Agawam does not qualify for many of the federal grant programs.

"We were advised by the Federal Government about six months ago that Agawam does not have enough minorities or unemployed to

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Proposed Tax Cap Threatens Education

By Joanne Brown

Open communication between constituents and their representatives is a hallmark of democracy, and a meeting held last Friday between Representative Edward Connolly and about 50 teachers who are members of the newly-formed Tax Cap Committee for Agawam and Southwick demonstrated true democracy in action.

This committee numbers 300 teachers from Agawam and 140 from Southwick and was formed with the express purpose of opposing Governor King's proposed zero percent tax cap on municipal government spending.

These teachers disapprove of the proposed tax cap because they believe it threatens fiscal autonomy when the state becomes involved by imposing regulations. They also feel it threatens collective bargaining, tenure, and local school rule - three areas crucial to the teaching profession.

Joseph Zabielski, a social studies teacher at Agawam High School who chaired the meeting, stated, "This proposal is already causing morale problems among teachers throughout Agawam and Southwick. They don't know where they stand regarding their jobs."

According to Zabielski, 29 non-tenured teachers in Agawam and 29 in Southwick have received notice already that they will not be rehired

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This One Didn't Get Away!



Frank Buoniconti, 10 years old of Feeding Hills, caught these beauties at the Agawam Sportsmen's Club on Corey Street in Agawam. His 19", 4 pound golden trout took first prize in the recent fishing derby on March 31, 1979.

Frank was fishing with his grandfather, Angelo Borgatti, who didn't get a bite all afternoon.


**PROGRAM
SCHEDULE**
**Wednesday
April 4**

6:30 GOIN' COCONUTS (PG-1:33)
8:00 MEAN DOG BLUES (R-1:48)
10:00 AAU Boxing: CHICAGO AT NEW ORLEANS
11:30 OUR WINNING SEASON (PG-1:32)

**Thursday
April 5**

6:00 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN - PART II (PG-1:45)
8:00 SPORTSCENE
9:00 THE BAD NEWS BEARS IN BREAKING TRAINING (PG-1:37)
11:00 THE CHOIRBOYS (R-1:59)

**Friday
April 6**

6:30 ELMER (G-1:30)
8:00 RABBIT TEST (PG-1:26)
9:30 Special: THE HOLLYWOOD CLOWNS
10:30 ACES HIGH (PG-1:54)
12:30 AAU Boxing: CHICAGO AT NEW ORLEANS

**Saturday
April 7**

2:30 HARPER VALLEY P.T.A. (PG-1:42)
4:30 Standing Room Only BARRY MANILOW
6:30 SPORTSCENE
7:30 THE GREAT BRAIN (G-1:30)
9:00 REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER (PG-1:39)
11:00 THE WILD GESE (R-2:15)
1:15 MEAN DOG BLUES (R-1:48)

**Sunday
April 8;**

1:00 ISLANDS IN THE STREAM (PG-1:44)
3:00 THE TURNING POINT (PG-1:39)
5:00 HOUSE CALLS (PG-1:38)
7:00 Special: UP CLOSE
8:00 THE GOODBYE GIRL (PG-1:50)
10:00 COMA (PG-1:52)
12:00 JULIA (PG-1:56)

**Monday
April 9**

5:30 GOIN' COCONUTS (PG-1:33)
7:00 RACE FOR THE PENNANT - PREVIEW
8:00 RABBIT TEST (PG-1:26)
9:30 MEAN DOG BLUES (R-1:48)
11:30 THE WILD GESE (R-2:15)
12:45 RACE FOR THE PENNANT - PREVIEW

**Tuesday
April 10**

5:00 Special: THE HOLLYWOOD CLOWNS
6:00 ACES HIGH (PG-1:45)
8:00 MURDER BY DEATH (PG-1:34)
10:00 SPORTSCENE
11:00 THE BAD NEWS BEARS IN BREAKING TRAINING (PG-1:37)
12:45 THE GREAT TEXAS DYNAMITE CHASE (R-1:29)

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Wings	.69¢ lb.
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Russer's German Bologna \$1.39 lb.	Land-O-Lakes White American Cheese \$1.89 lb.

Sweet Life Tomato Juice, 46 oz. can, .59¢
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Skippy Peanut Butter, 8 oz. jar, .99¢
B & M Baked Beans, 28 oz. can .69¢

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WITH \$10.00 PURCHASE

Sweet Life Flour
5 lb. bag 59¢
WITH \$10.00 PURCHASE

Coronet Ice Cream
gal. \$1.49
WITH \$10.00 PURCHASE

Solitario Proposal Reviewed by Planning Board

At the Agawam High School last Thursday evening, the town's Planning Board along with some 100 residents turned out to find answers to a number of questions concerning the 20 million dollar condominium complex proposed by local developer Frank Solitario.

Solitario is seeking a zone change for some 85 acres of land at the corner of South and Suffield Streets to install a projected 660 condominium units. Since announcing his intentions, Solitario has been criticized by some of the land's abutters and the Agawam Citizens Together (ACT) group who claims that "the vast majority of residents in Agawam are opposed to Solitario's proposition."

Forty nine residents spoke against Solitario's project at the public hearing, and one person spoke for it. The lone proponent was Jerry Zerra, a

current member of the Board of Appeals. Several letters from abutters and close neighbors of the project - all in favor of the proposal - were read into the record by Planning Board member Robert Bergin.

Many residents at the hearing voiced concern that information from Solitario was sketchy. The audience expected to see architectural blueprints from the developer and impact studies from the various town agencies. However, according to the law, the developer need not present a plot map for the public hearing, but he will need to submit one before the actual construction begins.

According to Building Inspector Joseph Conte, there are many laws on the town books that Solitario will have to adhere to if he attempts to construct facilities on the land. Conte said the Planning Board does not have

jurisdiction over what type of facilities Solitario might put up as long as the developer is in accordance with the A-3 zoning laws."

Planning Board member Robert Bergin, the hearing's presiding officer, read a series of letters from a number of town agencies which were asked to formulate a commentary on the project for the Planning Board to review and then present to the public. Except for the Engineering Department and Conservation Commission, the Police, Health and School departments could not make a statement of opinion due to what they termed "lack of information".

Thomas Cooney, a senior consultant for the Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission, said a concentration of 600 condominiums would have a profound impact on the surrounding neighborhood.



Ellie Piccin as Raymonde, left, and Irene Scanlon as Lucienne, both from Agawam, check over the letter they have just concocted to trap Raymonde's husband into a false tryst to test his faithfulness in the Agawam Repertory Theatre production of the French farce, "A Flea in Her Ear." Performances are slated for April 6 & 7 at the Agawam Junior High School on Springfield street. Curtain time is 8 p.m.

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Cooney warned of a 900 car increase for Agawam. Cooney also stated that there was incomplete sewer data submitted to the town engineer, John Stone. "And the Conservation Commission should carefully note all aspects of the land," Cooney explained to an applauding gallery.

Richard Stapleton, a consultant to the Conservation Commission, told the Advertiser/News that Solitario's projected figure of 660 condominiums might be a "ballpark" figure on the developers part. "I really don't think that Mr. Solitario expects to get that many condominiums in there," he stated.

Stapleton, who conducted the survey along with board member Kenneth Dean, said the commission submitted a favorable recommendation to the Planning Board because the land is most suitable for the installation of condominiums.

"It's a beautiful piece of land that condominiums would fit into quite nicely," Stapleton maintained. "As long as the developer takes into full consideration the brooks and wetlands, I believe the condominiums are the best use for the land."

Found in the Conservation Commission's report that was submitted to the Planning Board, is a phrase stating that Solitario may seek a cluster zoning permit from the Board of Appeals. "The Conservation Commission would also support Mr. Solitario's appearance before the Board of Appeals to obtain cluster development," the letter said.

Free Weekend Offered on HBO

Neil Simon's "The Goodbye Girl" starring Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason, "The Turning Point" with Anne Bancroft and Shirley MacLaine, "Julia" with Vanessa Redgrave and Jane Fonda, Barry Manilow in concert, plus Joe Namath as host of SportScene—a new TV sports magazine, will be the highlights of two full days of free pay TV programming available to all cable television viewers in Agawam, West Springfield, and Westfield on April 7 and 8. The free preview was announced by William Bennett, Marketing Manager of Spectrum Cable.

The full weekend of exceptional cable programming will be offered by special arrangement with Home Box Office, the national pay TV network now serving over 5,600 Spectrum subscribers.

"This is the first time HBO has offered a full weekend preview and it's a complete example of the movies and entertainment specials HBO offers all year around," said Bennett. "And a free sample is the best way to let people know about it. It's two days of great entertainment for the price of none."

Cable subscribers can view the free weekend of Home Box Office on Cable Channel 3.

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Agawam Celebrates Music In Our Schools

National Music in our Schools Week will be celebrated this week in schools throughout the country. The event, which started several years ago as a day of highlighting the music programs going on in the schools, has since been expanded to encompass a full week of activities.

Elementary band programs will be taking place in each of the elementary schools, with open rehearsals in the afternoons and parent invited to listen to the fifth grade band members prepare for the "Band Time" concert to be held May 2nd in the high school gym.

During the past two weeks, the solo ensemble festivals have also been held for elementary and middle school students. Solo ensemble afternoons for older students will be held at the Junior High on Tuesday, April 10, from 2-4 p.m. The senior high students will hold their festival on Wednesday, April 11, from 2-4 at the High School auditorium.

The solo ensemble festivals that were started by Mr.

Horizon Color Guard Wins Honors

The Agawam "Horizon" competing winter color guard moved up to second spot in their division at the Colonial Circuit Guard Competition held at Agawam High School on Sunday, March 25.

The home floor and generous local audience support helped, but the group has shown consistent improvement since its first contest earlier in the month. The group has fulfilled the early general impression that it would be hard to beat once some competition experience was attained.

Additional contests will be entered in Springfield at Cathedral High on Saturday, April 7, and at Chicopee Comp on Sunday afternoon, April 8. Tentative appearances are set up for Ansonia, Connecticut, and also at Westover.

David Baldock several years ago have been organized by him each year and have been expanded from the original two that were needed the first year to eight afternoons this year.

Hundreds of young musicians will have a chance to perform solos or small group numbers before the festivals are completed. Those who receive superior or excellent ratings will be awarded special pins to designate this accomplishment. A small number of the soloists from each level will also be invited to the special evening recital hour in June that will feature special recognition for them and will allow parents to hear students from various schools in the same program.

Another special program to commemorate MIOS Week will take place at the Middle School on Wednesday, April 4th when the string players from grades 5-7 will get together for a combined rehearsal in preparation for the String Jamboree to be held in Wilbraham on Saturday, April 28, and includes string players from all of the schools in the western part of the state.

AHS Students Earn State Honors

On March 18, 19, and 20, three Distributive Education students from Agawam High School along with their teacher, Mr. Peter Lowrey, attended the 20th Distributive Education State Career Development Conference in Danvers, Massachusetts.

The students, Barbara Atwater, Charlene Ciak, and Donna Desmarais, competed in four areas of competency for each of their overall fields. Barbara Atwater, a senior, competed in the area of Advertising Services and received achievement awards in the Selling and Communications aspects of her area and placed third in the state for selling.

AHS Band Paper Drive

The Agawam High School Band and Color Guard will sponsor a newspaper drive on Friday, April 6, Saturday, April 7, and Sunday, April 8. Proceeds from the drive will be used for the spring festival competition at Wildwood, New Jersey, which will take place in May.

All newspapers should be brought to the parking lot next to the band room, anyone not able to bring his papers may call Band Director Darcy Davis, 786-7356 after 5 or band parents Andre Mallette, 786-3858 after 5 or Louis Scherpa, 786-0203 anytime.

Donna Desmarais, a junior, competed in the Food Management field and received achievement awards in the area of Management. Donna placed fifth in the state for overall event.

Charlene Ciak, a senior, competed in the area of Finance and Credit and received achievement awards for the Communications and Human Relations aspects of her area.

These three students competed against the top 35 students in the state for each of their respective fields and performed very well indeed. Congratulations to each of them.

Board of Appeals Will Meet

The Board of Appeals will hold a meeting in the Hearing Room of the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, 1979.

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Catholic Women Slate Bake Sale

The Catholic Women's Club of St. John's Church, Agawam, will hold a bake sale at the Agawam Food Mart on Friday, April 6, beginning at 9:00 a.m. This event will be directed by the Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Mrs. Alexander G. Toczko and Mrs. David Gallano.

Berrelli-Beaudette Nuptials

On Saturday, March 31, 1979, the marriage of Jan Marie Berrelli to Robert Paul Beaudette took place in St. John's Church, Agawam. A reception at Westover Air Force Base followed the ceremony.

Miss Elizabeth McNulty of Springfield acted as maid of honor, and Mr. Thomas Guarnieri of Agawam served as best man.

The bride, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Berrelli of 23 Cypress Terrace, Agawam, is a graduate of Agawam High

School and is employed in West Springfield by Hartz Mountain Corporation and by Ponderosa Steak House.

The groom, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Beaudette of 125 Brien Street, Agawam, also graduated from Agawam High School and presently resides in North Carolina where he is employed by Marco Construction Co.

The couple will live in North Carolina following a honeymoon trip to the Pocono Mountains.

Breakfast Set to Benefit Cancer Fund

Theodore Twarog, 1979 special events chairman for the Agawam Cancer Crusade, has announced the upcoming Cancer Breakfast Benefit, which will be held on Sunday, April 8, at the Polish-American Club, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, from 8 a.m. to noon. Tickets will be \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for children under 10.

All are welcome to attend and support this important fundraiser as all proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.

Mr. Twarog, of 39 Cherry

Newcomers

The next meeting of the Agawam-West Springfield Newcomers Club will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd at 8 p.m. at the Capt. Leonard House, Main Street, Agawam.

Ron Kujowski from the Hampden County Extension Service will provide a slide and lecture program on

Street, Feeding Hills, resides with his wife Anna May and their children Debra and Karen. He was educated in local Agawam schools and received a degree in business from Nichols College, Dudley, Massachusetts.

He is a member of several area organizations and a past president of the Polish-American Club and of the Mawaga Sporting Club of Agawam. He is employed as a liquor salesman by the Country Club Soda Company.

Will Meet

gardening. Club members will provide plant cuttings for a plant sale to be held following the meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Newcomers Club welcomes all women in the area to join them for this Spring Fever evening. For further information, call 786-7643 or 786-8532.



Kathleen Letendre

Kathleen Letendre Promoted

Kathleen A. Letendre of Agawam has been advanced to associate director of Application Services in the New Business Division of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, it was announced today.

Letendre, a native of Springfield, was graduated from Agawam High School where she completed a

business study course and joined Mass Mutual's Underwriting Department in 1949. She has served as secretary of the McCormick Management Issues Board and as a member of the company's Home Office Safety Committee.

She is active in St. Theresa's Church, the United Way and the Cancer Drive.

Agawam Jaycee-ettes 'Hog Jog'

How would you like to win a shopping spree through Food Mart and give the sales slip to the Agawam Jaycee-ettes? The opportunity is now yours.

We are selling raffle tickets for such a spree. The tickets are \$1.00 a piece. The winner will have 3 minutes to fill the shopping cart, and the rest is up to the Jaycee-ettes. You could get your Easter dinner free. The drawing is April 11, and the winner need not be present.

This is the first time the Jaycee-ettes have attempted such a project. We have no idea what the shopper will spend, so challenge us; take advantage of us; buy a chance and try to break our bank. The Jaycee-ettes could always get jobs at Food Mart if we get a speedy shopper that wins.

The tickets are available from any Jaycee-ette and also will be sold Saturday, April 7th at Food Mart. So take a chance, you could win the "Hog Jog" through Food Mart.

Temple Beth El to Hear Dr. Haim Gunner

"After Camp David: Prospects in the Middle East" will be the sermon topic at services Friday, April 6th, at 8:15 P.M. at Temple Beth El.

The speaker will be Dr. Haim B. Gunner, a founder and member of Kibbutz Sasa in Israel and now a Professor of Environmental Science at

the University of Massachusetts.

Dr. Gunner is a consultant to the Israel Environmental Protective Service and is a visiting Professor at the University of Tel Aviv.

Services will be conducted by Cantor Morton Shames.

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Beltrandi Predicts Support at Hearing

Local developer John Beltrandi, co-sponsor of the proposed \$5 million dollar business-industrial park in Feeding Hills, said today he expects many Town residents to speak favorably of his proposal at the Planning Board's public hearing Thursday night.

In an interview with the Advertiser News, Beltrandi said that support for the park has increased considerably in recent weeks. The developer stressed the need for Town residents to come and speak at the hearing "so they can become involved in things that will effect their town," he added.

Beltrandi said he was "disappointed" that only 100 residents turned out for the public hearing on the Frank Solitario sponsored condominium complex on the corner of South and Suffield Streets. 49 residents spoke against Solitario's proposal at the March 29 hearing.

"It disturbed me that only 100 people showed up," Beltrandi said. "These are hearings that are very important to Agawam. We feel our business park is something Agawam needs and we are confident that residents in Town will show their support for it."

Beltrandi said he and co-sponsor Leon Charkoudian of Newton are planning a 40 minute presentation to the Planning Board and town residents. "We want the people in Town and the board to understand the concept we are trying to get across. It will be an informal discussion that doesn't involve statistics or a school type lecture. We'll try to answer any question put to us as best we can."

According to the developer, most of the criticism directed at the business park concerning the negative impacts it would have on the Town are "quite unfounded". Beltrandi said the two main areas which would be effected is the Fire Department and the traffic situation in Feeding Hills Center.

"There is no question the traffic in the Feeding Hills center will be increased. But you have to remember, the overall park development is a ten year deal. Some people foresee massive traffic jams all at once. This will never happen. As for the Fire Department," he continued, "it serves the entire Town, including the business park, and we would be perfectly willing to allow the Fire Department to open a substation in the park if they wanted to," Beltrandi said.

Beltrandi said he has had dialogue with Police Chief Stanley Chmelewski concerning the Police Department's obligation to the complex. "I have assured the Chief that the Police would not have to become involved in the park since we will hire a private security force."

"The entire network of supportive services for the park would almost entirely be taken care of by the park," he related. "People in Town need not worry about spending all kinds of municipal money on our park. It won't happen," Beltrandi further commented.

The developer said that the retail, medical and financial portions of the park are currently being studied by "highly" professionalized consultants who hail from outside the Western Mass. area. He said the interest in the Feeding Hills project has dramatically increased in recent weeks from professional planning institutions, Insurance Trust Funds, Retail Developers and Medical Developers. "The interest has just been amazing," he said.

Beltrandi stated he is presently negotiating with two major department stores based in the Boston area to set up outlets in the retail section of the park. "In fact," he said, "the financial, retail and medical centers in the business park will begin immediately after the zone change, if we receive it."

When asked the status of his 300 condominium units that would be installed into the park's residential section, Beltrandi's first reaction was to clear up some misconceptions he feels are circulating around Town about his project.

"I know there are those who just think all we are going to do is put up apartments up there. Let me tell you, this is a complete fallacy. Condominiums are years down the road. The first obligation we have is to solicit business and industry into the park. The number of condominiums we put in will depend on how much demand there is from people who are employed in the park," he explained.

Beltrandi said the current condominium scare in Agawam should not be associated with his business park since residential dwellings are not the most prominent aspect of the 55 million dollar project.

According to the developer, a number of reports about the project are near completion, including reports from the Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission, the state Department of Economic Affairs and the local Conservation Commission's report to the Planning Board. Beltrandi said he is hoping the state report will be ready for him to present at Thursday's hearing. The LPVRPC, according to Beltrandi, will submit their report April 9. Beltrandi said he did not expect a favorable response from the Regional Planning Commission.

"No, I'm really not expecting them to come out in favor of the business park. But we have to remember that the members of that body are a group of planners who represent their communities and its own interests. I hope that group will recognize Agawam as a community with 28,000 people and 15 councilmen that have the right to self-determination," he remarked.

In closing, Beltrandi, stated that in the last four weeks in the Western Mass. area, over 1,000 jobs have been lost because of cutbacks by the A&P Food Chain, the Moore Company in Springfield and a total shutdown by the Lestoil Company in Holyoke. He feels his park will bring major businesses back into the vicinity, with Agawam reaping the benefits.

"We have to do something to bring business back and this park is offering Agawam something unique in the state of Massachusetts," he said.

Citizens For Life Will Hold Dance

The Southwick Chapter of the Massachusetts Citizens For Life will be holding an "Oldies But Goodies Dance" on Saturday, April 23, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Polish American Club, Southwick Street (Rte. 57), Feeding Hills.

Disc jockey Dick Boyle will be playing all your favorite records. Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling Mrs. Terry Hanley, 569-5836, or Mrs. Melodie Charbonneau, 569-5495.

ACT Urges Planning Board Negate Solitario Project

The sixteen member Steering Committee of the approximately 125 member Agawam Citizens Together (ACT) organization, today urged members of the Planning Board to send a negative recommendation to the Town Council on the proposed rezoning of 80 acres on South Street by developer Frank Solitario. The developer is planning to install some 640 condominium units on the acreage.

At the Planning Board's public hearing last Thursday evening at the high school, 49 residents spoke against the rezoning, some of whom were ACT members. ACT spokesman Harry Minet told the Advertiser News that the residents who spoke against the project at the proceedings represent only a small portion of residents in Agawam that oppose the project.

"I think the public hearing speaks for itself. People in town just do not want to see this type of venture. We have enough of them already," Minet said.

The Steering Committee was also most critical of Board of Appeals member Jerry Zerra, the lone resident who voiced favorable words for Solitario's proposed complex. ACT said Zerra should not become embroiled in public commentary at this time. The committee's officers said that since Solitario may seek cluster zoning of the area, a process which eventually could involve the Board of Appeals, Zerra should remain neutral.

"I would say ACT is most disturbed that Mr. Zerra, a member of the Appeals Board would speak at this time. Even though he is a citizen of Agawam, his position right now should be one of information gathering and not public statements one way or another," Minet said.

Minet pointed to the number of Town Councilors and town officials who maintained their silence at the hearing "because they are in no position to render an opinion at this time," Minet added.

ACT also voiced their displeasure of the favorable recommendation presented to the Planning Board by the Conservation Commission. The Commission, upon recommendation by consultant Richard Stapleton and panel member Kenneth Dean, found the South Street site "most suitable" for development of the condominium type. The steering committee questioned the Commission's findings which were somewhat contrary to the findings of the Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission. The Regional Planning Commission's senior consultant, Thomas Cooney, presented the Regional Commission's opinion at the public hearing. Planning Board member Robert Bergin the hearing's presiding officer, read a letter from the Conservation Commission stating that agency's position.

"We believe the Conservation Commission is wrong, there is a great deal of land over there that is very wet," Minet said in reference to the 80 acre plot. "The LPVRPC study is based on a lot more different sources than the Conservation Commission and its a lot more scientific. Basically, all the local board did was go out and walk the land. We question how they arrived at their recommendation and why was it different from the Regional Commission."

ACT said they are most concerned that the implementation of 640

condominium units on the South Street site would contradict the town's Master Plan, which according to ACT, explicitly states that "Agawam residents are not receptive to condominiums or apartments." Minet said that right now, 26% of the town's housing stock is either condominiums or apartments, and Solitario's proposal would push that figure to well over 30% - something the Master Plan does not allow.

"Why in the world should we spend all that money to draw up a Master Plan and then not follow?" Minet remarked. "It seems foolish to spend the money in the first place if the Planning Board, the body who was responsible for the Master Plan does not abide by it."

According to Minet, the town would have to pay for the Worthing Brook sewer system which is needed to service the condominiums and also sport the tab for widening Suffield Street to accommodate the increased traffic caused by the complex.

"Any number of things that have to service these facilities will come out of the general funds. The entire town will be responsible to provide funds for the betterment of supportive services, something we feel should not happen," commented Minet.

The Steering Committee said if the town allows the Solitario project to slide through, the westerly side of the Solitario plot and land running alongside the intersection of Shoemaker Lane and Suffield Street "will be wide open for future development."

"Our committee is wondering when this is going to stop. The town is being seized with new developments all the time," Minet said. Minet added that his committee is not sure Solitario will install condominiums if he attains the zone change. "We believe that Mr. Solitario would put in apartments in that lot if he decided it would be to his advantage to do so," Minet said.

The steering committee took issue with an article which appeared about Solitario in the Springfield Daily News last Friday evening. The article quoted Solitario as saying "he would purchase the 85 acre tract regardless of the outcome of his zone change proposal. The article went on to say that Solitario would build mobile homes or a trailer park on the land if he could not build condominiums. When contacted by the Advertiser News about the statement, Solitario denied ever making it and declined to make

further comment on his proposal.

"It seems the town is constantly under threats by the developers," Minet said. "If they don't get what they want now, then they turn around and say the town will get something worse at a later date. If the developers were genuinely concerned about Agawam, why give it something like a trailer park when he knows very well that Agawam has no zoning for a trailer park. I guess you could say we are questioning his integrity," Minet surmised.

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Council to Consider Drinking Ordinance

by Gail Loneto

At Monday night's Town council meeting, two new ordinances amending Chapter XI of the Town Code was turned over to the ordinance committee, composed of Councilors Barnes, Fieldstat, Ladizinski and Polellopoulos for review.

The first ordinance deals with public consumption, possession and/or transport of opened alcoholic beverages. If the ordinance is passed, it will then be illegal to have in your possession, or to transport opened containers of alcoholic beverages in Agawam with the exception of legally licensed functions.

Anyone in violation of the proposed ordinance is subject to arrest and a fine of not more than \$200.00.

The second ordinance deals with trespassing on private and public property. If this proposed ordinance is passed, it will then be illegal to trespass on posted property or in the instance of being directly informed by the legal owner.

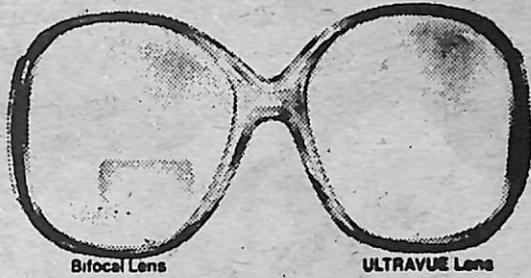
Violation of the proposed trespass ordinance carries with it a maximum fine of \$100.00 or imprisonment of not more than thirty (30) days.

According to police Chief Stanley Chmielewski, the proposed ordinances will give the police department a tool to work with, aiding the department in cleaning up disruptive gangs who congregate in parking lots, street corners, parks and other areas in Town.



Sacred Heart Boy Scout Pack 75 are pictured: front row(L-R) Jesse Shannon, Steve Hardy, Paul Ernest, Gordie Schebel, Chris Tourville, Pat Foley, and Todd Connery. Second row: Rob Geiger, A.S.M., Phil Esempio, Jon Benerakis, Billy Fortier, Paul Joseph, Mike Merceri, Keith Josephson, Brian Boulay, Mike Briggs, Steve Pinette, Paul Fontaine, A.S.M. Third row: Mike Fleming, Tom Fortier, Tom Tourville, Scout Master; Jeff Bourden, Marc Lamoureux, Bob Lancour, Ted Taupier, Greg Ghareeb, Fred Haynes, Rob Uschmann, Mike Ghareeb, Bob Schindler, Todd Huhtanen and Bud Hardy, Assistant Scout Master.

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"Youth gangs between the ages of 13-20 have plagued Agawam causing disturbances and other problems and the police need a tool to deal with them.", he stated.

If these ordinances are passed, the Chief feels that they will aid the police in

dealing with other related problems, such as, broken bottles and litter on streets sidewalks and parking lots, damaged playing fields and vandalism on town property.

Police Chief Stanley Chmielewski urges all Agawam residents to cooperate in the endeavor to

solve these problems by providing the police department any information concerning matters of alcohol abuse, public disturbances, vandalism and trespassing on public and private property. He added that it is not necessary to become involved or to give

your name when calling the department, but that without public cooperation, the problem becomes even more difficult to solve.

The new ordinances are expected to be voted on by the Town Council before the end of the month.

A Rose By Any Other Name...

by RITA WHITE

After about 2 years, Viola began the craft show circuit and has been going to them for about 4 years now. Her work has reached a very professional level. She will be one of the exhibitors at the Artisan Village craft show in Holyoke on April 22.

Aside from this hobby, Viola is actively associated with the YMCA slimnasatic program, The Council of Aging in Agawam, The Home Care Corp. of Springfield and is a member of the Craftsmen Guild of Springfield.

This would seem to leave little time for Viola to enjoy 2 of her other favorite pastimes, but she assures me she does indeed have time to go camping in the summer and to travel a lot during the rest of the year.

Another participant in the Artisan Village craft show will be Jean Carpenter. Her craft is called "Bou-K". Jean explains it as the "metamorphosis of an artificial flower" through the process of dipping them into a solution to give them a porcelain look and then accent painting them to bring out the highlights.

The actual dipping, painting and arranging take about 2 hours. The total time involved is longer, due to having to wait for the flowers to dry after the dipping and then to dry again after the painting.

The flowers are arranged in anything and everything from a fine china cup and saucer to an antique box. Arrangements can be made to order and in a container that the purchaser may already have. The prices range anywhere from \$3.00 to \$20.00.

Jean does her craft with her sister-in-law Doris Maule and as in most cases this craft started as a hobby. Jean would make up an arrangement and give it to a friend as a gift. Before she knew it, people were asking to buy the arrangements.

Jean and Doris have been practising their craft for about 4 years now. They have exhibited at Storrtown, the 4th of July show in Springfield, The Matoon Street Art Festival, the ABC show at Mt. Holyoke, the Agawam Arts and Crafts show and the West Springfield Arts and Crafts show in the Green, just to name a few.

Jean says they attend about 1 show a month, explaining that just for a one day show, they need to have 50 to 60 arrangements for display and sale.

We can add Jean to our list of amazing people. Along with her craft she is a wife, and the mother of a 15 and a 16 year old, both of whom attend Agawam High School. She also works part time as a

secretary for Packaging Services in Agawam.

But Jean loves the craft shows. She says her own craft only enables her to enjoy other people's crafts. Seems she comes home from the craft shows broke after visiting the other displays. And she particularly likes the craftspeople. "A very friendly group and always ready with a helping hand when needed."

A happy and successful craft season to Viola Smith and Jean Carpenter.

Cub Scout

Pack 76

Awards

Cub Scout Pack 76 of St. Theresa's Church, Agawam, would like to express its thanks to the many people who donated items to help make their recent bake sale a success. They especially want to thank the Agawam Food Mart for the use of their premises and to thank those hard-workers who gave of their time and effort.

Scouts receiving awards at the recent March pack meeting were as follows: Michael Jock and Christopher Pisano, wolf; James Anderson, bear; Michael Jock, 1 gold and 2 silver arrows; Christopher Pisano and James Anderson, 1 gold and 1 silver; Mark Hallauer, 3 silver; Joey DeBuona, 1 gold and 3 silver; Joey Walz, 1 gold and 4 silver; Steven Simmons, 1 gold.

Webelos receiving awards were as follows: Dennis Martin, aquanaut and showmanship; Shawn Bonavita, Thomas Walz, Gary Scott, Jeffrey Martin, Robert Vandergrift showmanship.

Joey Webster was welcomed into Pack 76.

The pack's fundraising candy bar sale, under the direction of Michael Bonavita, was a success. Mark Hallauer received a pair of cub scout binoculars as his prize for selling 102 candy bars.

On Saturday, March 24, the scouts and their families held their second skating party at Riverside Rollaway with all 96 skaters having a great time.

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If you could meet any famous person, who would you like to meet and why?

Unless otherwise indicated, the responses are from students at Danahy School.

Thomas Smith, Gr. 4 - I would like to meet Abe Lincoln because I would like to know what gave him the idea of freeing the slaves. I would also like to know why he read so much. I would like to know what made him decide to run for President. I wish I knew what caused him to start the Civil War.

Scott James, Gr. 4 - If I could meet a star in the world, I would meet Robin Williams of "Mork and Mindy" because I would like to know the way he started to go on television. I would like to know his life story and know why he wanted to go on that particular program. I would like to know how he gets to be so funny and if he gets along with Pam Dauber, who plays Mindy.

Paul Bourdeau, Gr. 4 - If I could meet a famous person, I would pick George Washington because he did a lot of things for our country. He was the first President of the United States. He fought against the British for our independence.

Lisa Ardwin, Gr. 4 - I would like to meet Andy Gibb because I think he is cute and I would like to get his autograph. I would like to see him in person. I would like him to sleep at my house for another week. I like him because I like the way he sings.

Eric Burnett, Gr. 2 - I would like to meet Shaun Cassidy because he is famous and might let me be in his show. I would play a guitar like him. We would sing all kinds of songs, and we would tell jokes, a whole bunch of people would come, and there would be things to drink.

Bryan Boutwell, Gr. 2 - I would like to meet George Washington because I want to see the White House, see other Presidents, and the other people.

Andy Bubar, Gr. 2 - I wish I can meet the Yankees. They are my favorite baseball team. My whole family likes them.

Mark Romeo, Gr. 2 - I wish I could meet Jim Rice because I never met him. Once I saw him play at Fenway Park, and he hit a grand slammer in the second inning.

Michelle Monkiewicz, Gr. 2 - I would like to meet Dinah Shore because I would like to go on her show.

Amy McCullough, Gr. 2 - I would like to have met Elvis because he was a great singer.

Julie Dialessi, Gr. 2 - I would like to meet Catfish Hunter because he is my favorite from the Yankees.

Jimmy Burn, Gr. 2 - I would like to meet Jim Rice. I would get his autograph. I would ask how to catch and how to hit better. I would ask him how to field better, too.

Adam Moylan, Gr. 2 - I would like to go to Washington, D.C. and see Jimmy Carter. I would like to see the White House. I would enjoy it.

Alice Barstow, Gr. 2 - I would like to meet John Travolta because I think he's cute. I have a poster of him and I take disco too. I love disco so, so much I could do it every day. I want to be a star of "Grease" with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

Christina Morassi, Gr. 2 - I would like to meet Melissa Gilbert of "Little House on the Prairie" because I think she is a good actress. I'd watch her every night if I could. I wish I could be an actress just like her. They probably put it on a Monday because that's a great day. That's the best TV show of the week.

Jodi Quinn, Gr. 2 - I would like to meet John Travolta because he is cute. Shaun Cassidy is cute, too. I have their records. John Travolta loves Olivia. Shaun loves a girl and they are married. People like Shaun and John.

Chad Alechyn, Gr. 2 - I would like to meet Terry Bradshaw of the Pittsburgh Steelers because I like the Pittsburgh Steelers. I was glad when they won Super Bowl XIII. I would get Terry's autograph and I would go to every game. Every morning we would go running and get ice cream.

Tammy Buoniconti, Gr. 2 - I would like to meet Shaun Cassidy because he's my favorite star. Sometimes I watch him on TV.

Pamela Nolan, Grade 2, Phelps School - I would like to meet Andy Gibb because he is cute. And he is a good singer.

NEXT WEEK'S QUESTIONS:
"Wee Whisperings" (kindergarten) - If you had to move to some other country, where do you think you would like to live and why?

"Children's Chatter" (grades 1-4) - If you had to live in some other country, what country would you like most to live in and why?

"Youthful Yak" (grades 5-7) - How important is it to be one of the "gang" and do whatever everyone else is doing?

"Teen Talk" (grades 8-12) - Do you feel that drugs are still a major problem in our schools? Do you think that alcoholism is a problem among teens?

Agawam Advertiser/News

Brandy

By Gina Lynch
Agawam Middle School

*Our Brandy is a little dog
With a lot of golden fur,
And everywhere that Brandy goes,
Good times will go with her.*

*She's always nice and loves to play,
And she would never bite.
She's very smart and knows some tricks
And always does them right.*

*There's nothing more to say right now
I think it has all been said,
So I guess I'll say good-bye for now
And go scratch Brandy's head.*

continued from page 2

"This might not be a popular idea in town but I really don't mind if people live close to each other as long as there is enough open space between units," Stapleton said. "Cluster zoning has a lot of possibilities, and it would leave those beautiful brooks alone."

Robert Bergin indicated that he questions that someone would wish to come into the parcel if it would cause a hardship on the land. "That is a question which I will be considering," Bergin commented.

Solitario, through his attorney, Donald Conway, told the Planning Board that his condominiums will be two bedroom units. When contacted by the Advertiser/

News for further comment on his proposal, Solitario declined to make any more comments "at this time."

When asked about the Master Plan's position on 600 condominium units which would apparently push the town's apartment and condominium dwellings to over 30% of the overall housing stock in Agawam, Bergin said, "well I think the Master Plan is something we spent a lot of money on and an equal amount of time was put into it. The Master Plan makes it clear Agawam will be under a lot of development pressure. It tries to tell us where we are as a town in 1977 and where we are going from here," Bergin said.

The Master Plan was

formulated by consultant Robert Donald of Brown, Donald and Donald. "Mr. Donald's observation was that all the apartment units in town were very visible," Bergin pointed out.

The Master Plan indicates that Agawam residents are not receptive to apartment and condominium developments.

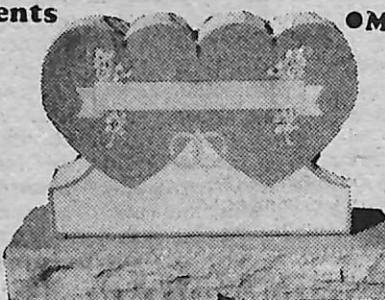
The Planning Board has until April 19th to make a recommendation to the Town Council. It should again be noted that the Planning Board serves in only an advisory capacity for a zone change. It is the 15 Councilmen who must make the final decision.

MEMORIALS

of BRONZE OR GRANITE

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NOTICE To Agawam Residents

The businesses, individuals, and organizations listed below have demonstrated their interest in the community by sponsoring youth teams for boys and girls in the Agawam Athletic Association. The coaches, parents and children involved with the Association thank them very much. Without their financial support for the past eight years, these programs could not continue to be successful.

BOYS 8-10 NATIONAL DIVISION

- Peter Caputo
- Medical Personnel Pool
- Agawam T.V. Service
- Mushy's
- Agawam Police Association
- John Beltrandi

BOYS 8-10 AMERICAN DIVISION

- Whyte Realty
- AAA Landscaping
- Agawam D.P.W.
- Nick's Restaurant
- Stan's Soft Serve
- Hampden Fence

BOYS 10-12 NATIONAL DIVISION

- Chriscola Farm Equipment
- Polish American Club
- Food Mart

BOYS 10-12 AMERICAN DIVISION

- Century 21-Heritage Realtors
- Agawam Police Association
- Building 451

GIRLS 8-9

- Agawam Fire Association
- Heritage Hall Nursing Home
- Feeding Hills Pharmacy
- Agawam Jaycee-ettes

GIRLS 10-12

- Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home
- Polish American Club
- Catholic Women's Club of Agawam
- West Springfield-Agawam Kiwanis Club

GIRLS 12-13

- J.W. Whimpy's
- Impression Hair Styles
- Agawam Police Association
- Agawam Finest Cleaners

BOYS 13-15

- Park Auto School
- Frank Solitario
- Gove Realty
- Oak Ridge Country Club

The Association also sponsors 16 boys baseball and girls softball teams in the 6-7 Instructional league; two 13-15 girls teams in Suburban softball; two boys teams in Pioneer Valley League; and one swim team for boys and girls 8-10 in the Pioneer Valley Swim League. These teams are sponsored solely by contributions from the parents and funds from the Agawam Athletic Association.

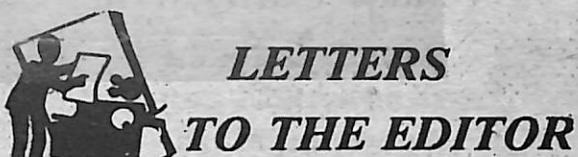
Editorials

by Lou Guevin

At last Tuesday's regular meeting of the Agawam School Committee, I was amazed at the insults that were bestowed on Agawam parents by Chairman Richard Borgatti. The Committee was discussing the formation of school policy in regards to students caught using drugs in school. Several solutions were bandied about. One proposal called for suspension of the student with his/her attendance at some sort of counseling with a parent. Several members of the committee questioned the legality of such a move. Mr. Borgatti indicated that the "problem (drug use) was the parents' responsibility." In commenting on mandatory attendance at a counseling session, Mr. Borgatti went on to say, and I quote, "Most parents are too stupid or ignorant to care about their children today."

I can't believe that an elected member of the School Committee, or any elected person for that matter, would make such a blatant and irresponsible remark. Mr. Borgatti obviously has a very low opinion of those who elected him to office. How can any parent expect to be treated honestly and fairly by the School Committee when their chairman makes comments like the above?

Mr. Borgatti, I hope you don't intend to run for re-election on that platform!!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I would like to thank you at this time for putting our articles in your paper. The parents and team members (of the Southwick Hockey Association) appreciated seeing the articles very much.

You have made a lot of kids happy. Once again, thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Sandy Haramut
8 Falmouth Road
Southwick

To the Editor:

I would like to inform the newer residents of Agawam of a few important facts: 1. The extension of Route 57 is an absolute necessity to alleviate current problems, not to create new, gigantic problems. 2. The Town of Agawam in 1975 hired Brown, Donald, and Donald Co., planning service, Farmington, Connecticut, to survey and develop a master plan for Agawam. This plan cost \$50,000. The taxpayers, of course, paid the bill, and the taxpayers should request the Town to follow this plan. To date, the town fathers have stuck pretty much to it and the results have been great. The current proposal by Leon Charkoudian, Newton, MA, and John Beltrandi, Agawam, MA, does not adhere to this plan made by a reputable planning service. 3. The Pheasant Hill Village

proposal was Not the mandate of the people. The Agawam Board of Appeals made this decision. The Board of Appeals in their decision set up some restrictions. They stated, "...the area of Pheasant Hill is clearly of a residential character...also...there shall be no commercial development..."

The Agawam Planning Board is having a PUBLIC hearing Thursday, April 5th, 7:30 p.m. at the Agawam Junior High School, Springfield Street, Agawam, MA. I urge all residents to attend, as this hearing concerns the proposed \$50 million self-contained business and residential village. This plan has to make great demands on the School Dept., the Fire Dept., the Police Dept., the Environmental Dept., the Department of Public Works, the Welfare Dept., the Recreation Dept., etc. These demands add up to Tax Dollars. Come listen and come question!

Sincerely yours,
Gene H. Gallucci

School Committee

The Agawam School Committee will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 1979, for the purpose of discussing negotiations and budget, at the office of the Superintendent of Schools (Agawam Jr. High), 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass., at 7:00 p.m.

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Caputo Announces More Budget Cuts

Town Manager Peter Caputo today announced that a second series of budget cuts have been made by the ranking committee - the town manager, and Dave Gallano the town treasurer. Caputo said that original requests by the departments in town totalled \$9,209,026. Preliminary cuts totalling \$969,461 were previously made, and that now an additional \$514,254 in cuts have been instituted. The total cut from the 9 million figure is \$1,483,745 to date.

In announcing the cuts, Caputo cited "spiraling inflation" and "and union agreements effecting employee salaries and benefits" as two of the reasons for additional cuts.

Caputo said that with inflation of from 10-15% expected in the next year, the budget would have been driven up a minimum of 10% (or \$1,483,745).

One of the largest cuts made was \$20,689 from the Youth Center budget. Noting

Consumer Warning

Consumers are warned against being bilked by fast talking pool salesmen. The Agawam Consumer Advisory Commission, in conjunction with the Attorney General's office, would like to alert citizens to the possibility swimming pool advertising may be conductive of "bait and switch" advertising. While the majority of pool dealers are undoubtedly reputable, there exists a certain segment of high pressure salesmen who attract the consumer's attention by way of advertising pools at an extremely low price. Once the consumer becomes interested (baited), the salesman then attempts to switch the consumer to a far more expensive pool, often thousands of dollars in excess of the original price. Any consumer who feels this may have happened to them, we advise them to contact our towns Consumer Advisory Commission, in the Town Hall.

Conte Closes Mobile Office

Washington, D.C.: U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Mass., said recently that he is terminating his Mobile District Office in order to set an example for fuel conservation.

The Congressman also said he will continue his practice of personally conducting office hours throughout the District on a periodic basis, and, Conte

said, his District Office staff will be conducting office hours on a periodic basis in the localities.

Conte's District Offices are located at the Post Office Building, 650 Dwight Street in Holyoke, (413) 532-7010; and at the Federal Building, 78 Center Street Arterial in Pittsfield (413) 442-0946.

Conte has maintained the Mobil District Office since April 1976. Manned by Conte staffers, it has made scheduled stops throughout the First District.

that the cut was "a hard decision to make" since the issue was of concern to all, Caputo stated that "there are other organizations that can serve this need in the community."

Large cuts were also made in personnel in the Treasurer's office, the Collector's office, the Health Department, the Building Inspector's office, the Administration, and the Library.

\$25,000 was cut out of the budget that was previously earmarked for publication of the town's History Book. Also, \$104,000 was cut from the capital budget for storm sewers on Silver Street from Garden Street to Doane Avenue.

Caputo said that the administration's cuts, "except for a few specific areas, reflect cuts in the budget rather than cuts in proposed increases that were submitted by department heads." He also commented that currently he is expecting state aid to remain at the same level or be slightly increased. "This is good news since it will mean that our municipal promise to 'hold the line' and not increase taxes will be a reality and, furthermore, if our forecast is correct and we have every reason to believe it will be, a municipal tax cut will be made."

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Pat Guevin



At last week's joint meeting of the Agawam Town Council and the School Committee to re-discuss the 4 million dollar bonding of the high school renovation project, Councilor Paul Fieldstad commented, "I take offense at what is going on here." He went on to explain that he was upset over the fact that people only read and hear about all the bad things kids do and none of the good things. Well, Mr. Fieldstad, I take offense!! Do you call the coverage that this newspaper gives the youth sports programs in this community bad news?? Do you consider it bad press to carry such features as "Kids Korner" in the newspaper?? What about all the school plays, band performances, field trips etc. that you read about in our newspaper weekly?? Conservatively speaking, 75% of our news during any one week is dedicated to the youth in this town!!!

I take offense because you obviously didn't like the articles which appeared here on drug use and vandalism in our schools. That's too bad because those things are real, and though they are not necessarily nice, they do happen and the people have a right to be made aware of any problems of this nature that do exist. Never have we said that all children in the Agawam school system were responsible for the destruction and dope. We said that marijuana smoking is widespread at the high school level - and it is. We said that there were those elements in town that are causing the majority of the vandalism - and there is.

Well, Mr. Fieldstad, it's unfortunate that you cannot differentiate between the truth and what you feel to be bad press!

Planning Board

The Agawam Planning Board will meet on Thursday, April 5, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. in the Agawam Junior High School Auditorium, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

Board of Health

The Agawam Board of Health will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 5, 1979 at 7:45 p.m. in the Town Hall.

LEGAL NOTICE

Town Council
Agawam, MA

The Agawam Town Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 17, 1979, at 8:00 p.m., at the Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA on the application for a Class II Dealers' license of Daniel R. Kieffer, 67 Bridge Street, Agawam, MA to operate Dan's Auto, 495 Springfield Street (Basement), Feeding Hills, MA.

Peter Caputo
Town Manager

Published: April 3, 1979

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Library review continued from page 1

qualify for major federal grants. We have applied for them but it doesn't look like we meet the qualifications to receive them," he explained.

Caputo told the Advertiser/News that he feels the Review Board did "an excellent job" in their investigation. "I think their recommendations are well founded and I'm considering implementing all of them," he said.

Saracino stated that the Agawam Business Association probably "will not be satisfied" with the Review Board's findings. "I believe they are looking for a more indepth committee but I am satisfied with what we came up with."

Saracino said the Business

Association was most "upset" with the Library's financing during the course of the investigation. Saracino said the government issued Agawam \$603,000 for the entire operation, but the Library's total cost will probably reach \$800,000, according to Building Committee projections. The Library has cost \$727,085 to this point. Agawam was forced to put up approximately \$197,000 to complete this project.

"There is no doubt the ABA was upset that Town funds were used when originally, it was thought the federal funds would pay for it. But again, we found the Building Committee to be conducting their business within the law."

**Tax Cap continued
from page 1**

reported to the floor of the House. The first proposal will probably be in on Tuesday and will, most likely, go along with the Governor's original proposal to point out the availability of \$125 million which comes from normal

growth of communities.

Over the years, this money has been used to pay salary and institute new programs, but Governor King wants it used to help effect a rollback in taxes.

Connelly believes a tax cap of some sort will be effected, but, as yet, no one knows what it will be. Charlotte Brunelle, a representative of the Massachusetts Teachers Association who was present at the meeting, stated the association's position on this issue to Rep. Connelly.

She expressed the MTA's concern with the length of the tax cap, saying one year is the desired time limit. The association also hopes for a 7% cap in line with President Carter's recommendation, a retention of local autonomy, and an honoring of previously-negotiated collective bargaining agreements.

Donald Desmond, a Southwick teacher with 26 years of experience, said, "Zero percent tax cap could devastate the only thing Southwick has - a good educational system." He urged every school system to let their legislators know, in very concrete terms, just what each percentage tax cap would mean to them.

Rep. Connelly made the political observation that a "safety valve" would be built into the final bill which will allow the local school committee the right to bring any proposed spending over the tax cap to the local governing authority where it can seek a two-thirds majority approval to maintain that level of education. This method would make the local community fully aware of what is being spent above the tax cap and would require its consent in maintaining that

level of expenditure.

Rep. Connelly assured the teachers that he very much doubted that a zero percent cap will prevail, and he flatly stated that he would not support it.

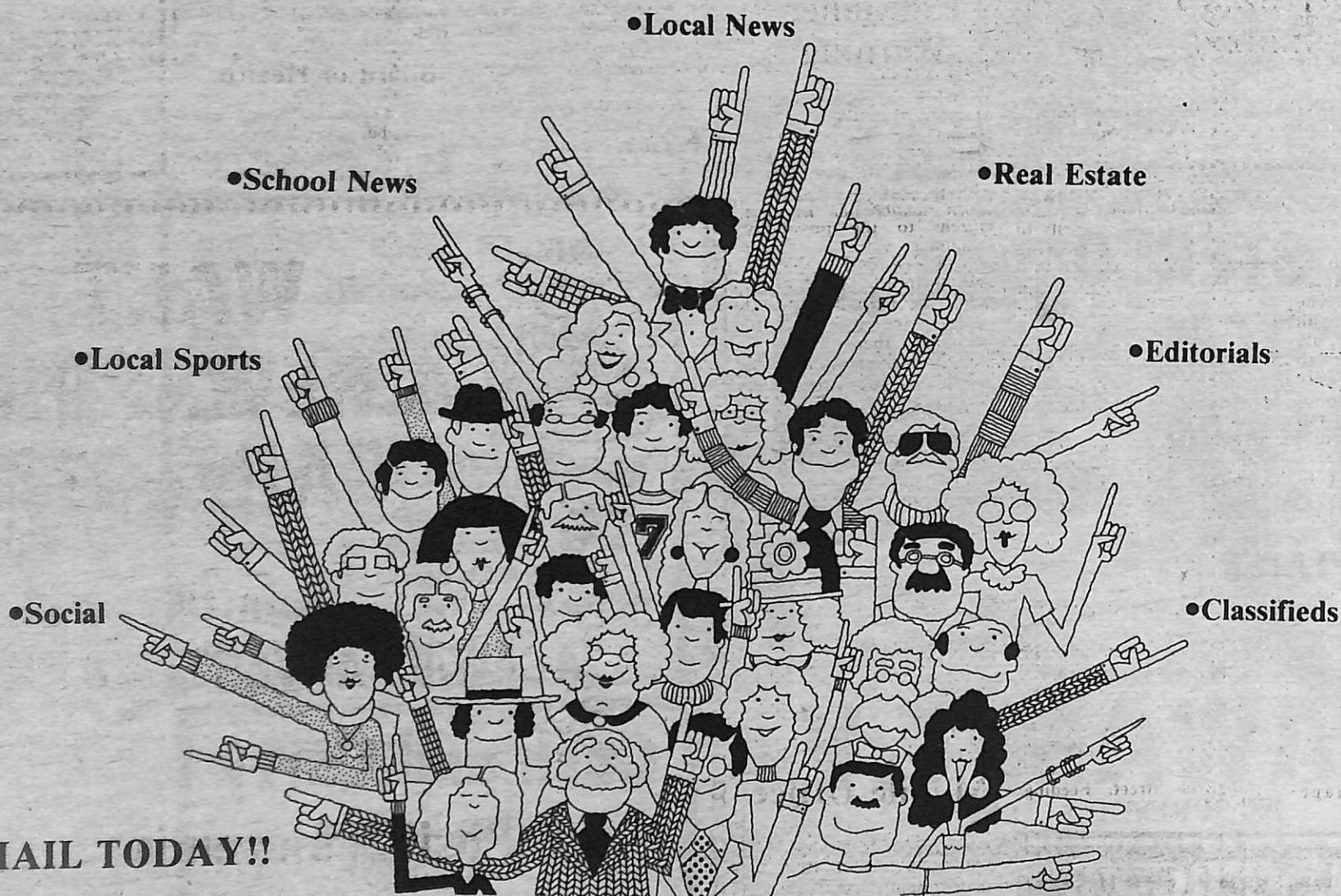
He concluded his remarks by encouraging people to write to him and to other state government representatives because this is an important way they depend on to know what their constituents are thinking.

Open discussion meeting of the type held last Friday are also another excellent method.

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CHD Announces Breakthrough In Foster Care Services

The Center for Human Development, a non-profit human services corporation serving Western Massachusetts, is proud to announce a major breakthrough in the area of foster care services.

Hampden County has become the focus of a survey on public attitudes on foster care that will aid foster care agencies throughout the nation in their acquisition of quality foster care homes for youth.

The community survey, however, is only the first part of a multi-purpose 3-year grant received about one year ago by the Center for Human Development from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, a federal agency that assists local law enforcement programs. Through the grant, the center hopes to increase the number of foster homes available in Hampden County.

The grant, totalling about \$180,000 or \$60,000 a year, was provided by LEAA through the Juvenile Justice Prevention Act, which contends that a stable and loving family atmosphere is one of the best deterrents of juvenile crime.

As one of the largest non-profit human service agencies in Western Massachusetts, the Center's continual reliance on the home and family setting to help troubled youth in most of its nine-member programs influenced LEAA's decision in awarding the grant.

The federal grant has three parts which include the following:

1. Survey - A telephone poll of the residents of Hampden County to assess their attitudes towards foster care and foster parenting. Most respondents believe that youth are better off with

foster parents than in institutions. Most also believe that troubled teenage youth can change and become more responsive to society under the right circumstances.

2. Development of Advertising Campaign - Directed to the people identified in the survey as most suitable for foster parenting. Approximately 75% of the people who were polled have some positive attitudes about foster care. Hampden county has great potential for the development of more foster homes.

3. Analysis of New Techniques and Procedures - To carefully analyze new procedures and techniques of home screening, foster care training, and support. The results of the survey indicate a strong need for public education and awareness about foster parenting. There are still myths, rumors, and fears about foster parenting that need to be dispelled.

One of the reasons that Hampden county has become the focus of a federal grant and a survey of national significance is because its population is nearly the same in proportion to the general population of this country, in reference to factors such as age, race, sex, and national origin. The Center for Human Development's major focus on foster homes for its programs aided in that decision. The possibility of a national workshop focusing on the results of this recent survey are very real for the near future.

For more information and statistics, please contact Barbara Loh, LEAA Grant Coordinator, Homefinding Supervisor, at 733-6624

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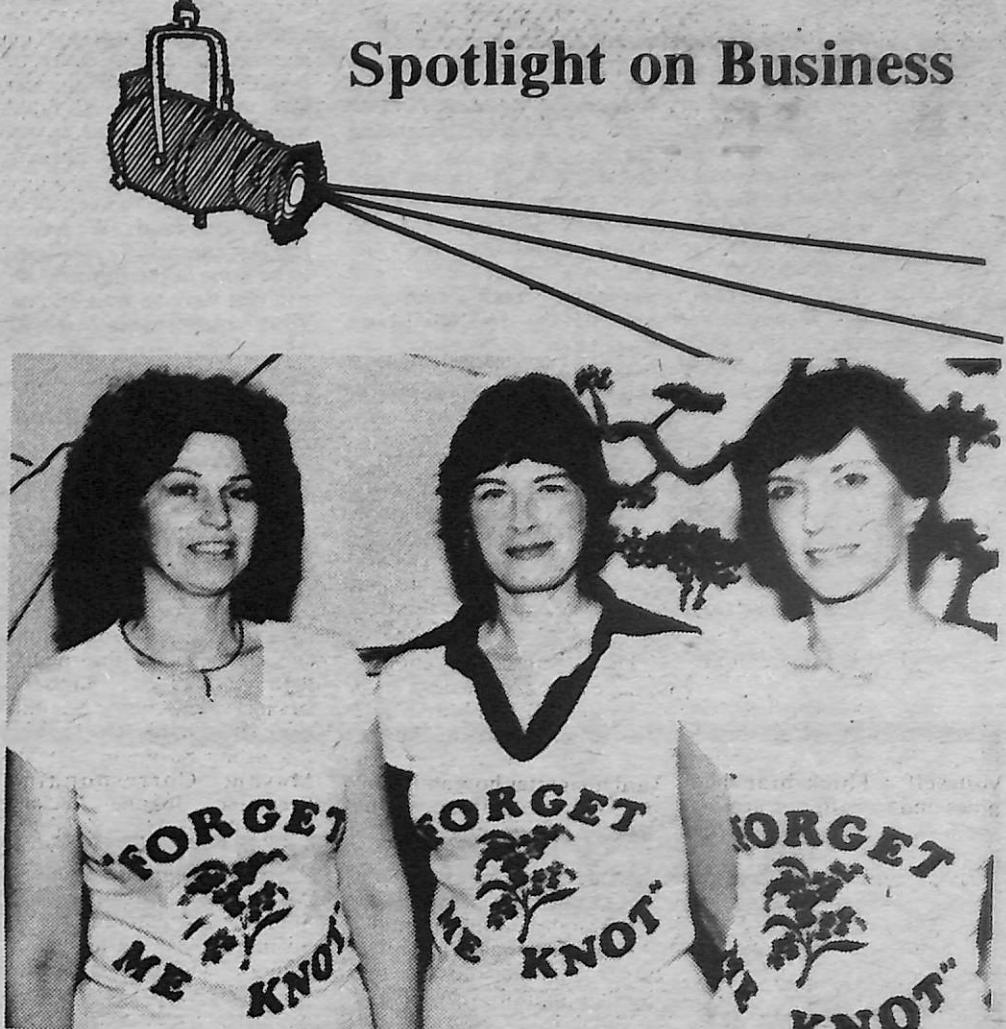
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Spotlight on Business



Left to right: Raymonde Parolo, Jades Ziomba, and Faith McGuire of 'Forget-Me-Knots'.

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Our Feathered Friends

by Mary Os.

Last week we discussed techniques in planting that will provide food for the birds throughout the year. This week we are going to investigate planting for shelter, protection, and nesting.

Planting for shelter is very important in our area since our winters are so bitterly cold and often very wet. Logically, plants that are indigenous to the area offer the best protection as those are the plants that have allowed the native birds to survive in the first place.

A thick grouping of evergreens will afford shelter for the birds and privacy for yourself. Thick-branched pines and firs offer protection from wind as well as from rain and snow. Air pockets within help keep the temperatures up during cold nights.

Another excellent choice for shelter is a hemlock hedge. Any group of dense, broad-leaved trees, shrubs, or vines will give shelter. These plants will provide concealment as well as shelter.

The more hiding places you provide near your feeder the more likely it is the birds will frequent it. Concealment does not necessarily mean protection, however. The best protection against predators is a tangled weave of shrubs and vines. The vines should be of a thorny variety as the spikes will not prevent the birds from entering, but will impede predators such as cats. Wild blackberry bushes or rose bushes provide this type of protection, but are not always that attractive to the

garden scene.

If you have a rather unused piece of land, consider creating this type of "jungle" for your avian visitors. You will probably be well rewarded for your generosity.

The third area of consideration is nesting. One essential ingredient is adequate coverage. Thick-leaved deciduous trees and pines are attractive to potential parents as are wide hedges that offer a great deal of concealment.

There must be enough foliage to shade the nest, keep out rain and wind, and hide the young from predators. Birds will not nest in your yard no matter how abundant the food source if the nesting conditions are not right. If you are interested in attracting a certain type of bird, research its nesting habits and plant accordingly.

One last thing to remember is that you make the decisions about a planting scheme, and it should be attractive to you. Giant hedges around a small yard may not be desirable no matter how many birds they attract. Planting in an active section of the yard may inhibit family activity and repel nesters anyway.

If you can work in some planting to attract birds, all well and good. If you can't, your feeding station will attract the natives in some numbers anyway.

Anyone with questions or suggestions about spring planting is urged to drop a note to "Our Feathered Friends" at the Advertiser/News.

Officers Elected for Agawam Athletic Association

The Agawam Athletic Association celebrated its 8th year at its annual meeting at the West Springfield Fish & Game Club. Election of officers and discussion of the Parks & Recreation program were the main topics of the meeting. Gerald J. Mason, organizer of the AAA and president for the past seven years was nominated and unanimously elected for the eighth term. Other officers and Executive Board members elected were: Executive Vice President, Bill O'Brien; Vice Presidents, Robert Hersey, Barbara Goehlert, Rosemary Sandlin and Joanne O'Brien; Recording Secretary, Phyllis Mason; Corresponding Secretary, Joanne Leclair; and Treasurer, James Marmo.

Sports Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and Secretaries elected were: Swimming Commissioner, Rodney Richardson; Assistant Swimming Commissioners, Irene Scalise and Paul Mathews and Swimming Secretary, Diane Richardson. Boys Basketball Commissioner, David Lyne; Assistant Basketball Commissioner, Edward Connor and Boys Basketball Secretary, Maureen Lyne. Girls Basketball Commissioner, Barbara Goehlert; Assistant Basketball Commissioner, Joanne O'Brien and Girls Basketball Secretary, Joanne Leclair. Boys Baseball Commissioner, Robert Hersey; Assistant Baseball Commissioner, Ernie

Tetreault and Baseball Secretary, Judy Tetreault. Girls Softball Commissioner, Jackie Slamon; Assistant Softball Commissioner, Rosemary Sandlin and Softball Secretary, Roseanne Connor. Rounding out the Executive Board were the committee chairmen; Finance, Sandra Kozak; Budget, Edward Connor, Scholarships, Edward Plante; Banquet and Special Arrangements, Raymond Saracino; Sports Coordinator and Officials, Donald Rheault; Constitution and Bylaws, Kenneth Barnes; and Newsletter and Publicity, Jackie Slamon.

The Association members discussed recent budget cuts by Town Manager, Peter Caputo, in the town's Park & Recreation budget. The Association voted unanimously to extend to all parents of children who may be affected by the proposed budget cuts an opportunity to come to the Agawam Athletic Association and discuss with us the possibility of continuing these programs through the Athletic Association. The AAA is a service group for children and children's programs in Agawam, is familiar with organization of children's programs in all areas. We have no knowledge at this time of what programs may be deleted by the town manager, but we are confident that we can be of assistance, providing there is parent participation in behalf of their children.

Symposium On Stress To Be Presented

"Coping With Stress: A Therapeutic Approach" is the title of an all-day symposium to be presented on April 19 at the Colonial Hilton Inn of Northampton. The program is co-sponsored by the Hampshire County Unit of the American Cancer Society and the Cancer Cooperative at 781-1170.

It is expected at the end of this program, the participants will be able to do the following:

1. Recognize the concept of stress and how the body responds to it.
2. Identify physiological and psychological components of stress in self and in patients coping with cancer.
3. Explore ways that can assist a person to adapt to stress in a positive manner.
4. Improve the quality of life through positive self-awareness and self care.
5. Stimulate awareness of role of support groups for the health profession.

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March 30, April 6, 7
Agawam Repertory Theatre *A Flea in Her Ear*
Agawam Jr. High School
8 p.m.

April 10, 1979
Agawam Garden Club
Captain Leonard House
7:30 p.m.

April 4, 1979
Pre-School Story Hour
Agawam Library
10 a.m.

April 7, 1979
A.F.S. Macaroni & Meatball Supper
V.F.W., South Street
5-8 p.m.

April 8, 1979
Pancake Breakfast for the benefit of the Cancer Crusade

Polish American Club
Feeding Hills
8 a.m. - 12 noon

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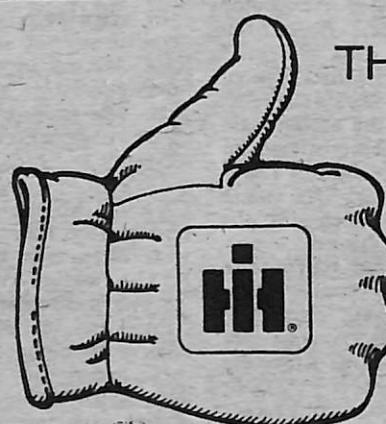
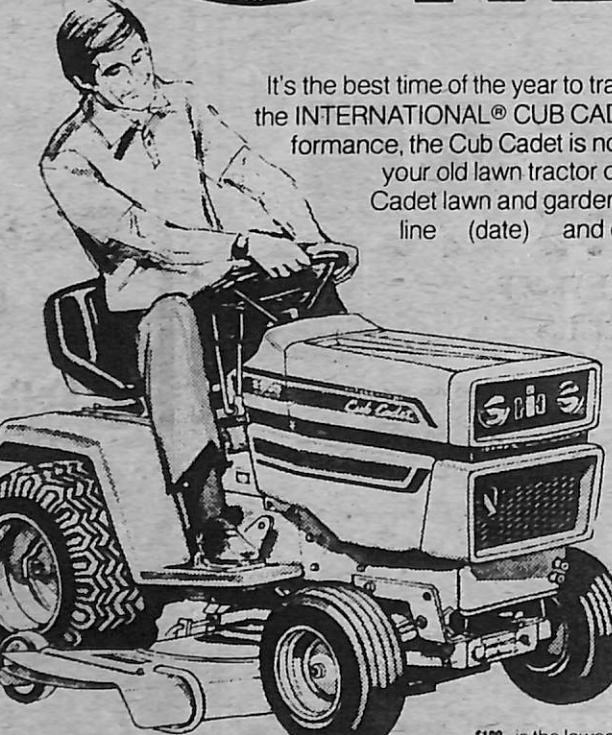
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Sports

Girls Softball Established at Jr. High

After some haggling, indecision and a bit of parental persuasion, the Agawam School Department last week put their stamp of approval on the establishment of a softball team for the young ladies at the Junior High School. Just chalk another one up for the Equal Rights Amendment and Bella Abzug.

Actually, after the situation which had some female members of the community up in arms, let it be known far and wide that male chauvinism cannot be cited as the culprit in the overdue granting of an interscholastic squad for those feisty eighth and ninth grade girls. In fact the School Department performed rather admirably in handling the recent confusion.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools James Bruno stated the Junior High girls will compete on an intra-mural level this spring and once the flowers begin blooming in 1980, a full interscholastic program will get underway.

"Our feeling was that we would go intra-mural this season and schedule as many games with other schools as we could," Bruno said. "It just is not easy forming a new program overnight and the School Department hopes everyone will understand that."

Bruno said there is a high degree of interest within the school's female population to compete on an interscholastic level. Junior High Principal Paul Tatro agreed

"Oh sure, we have a good number of girls down here looking forward to this team. Right now, the intra-mural team will be open to all girls in the school to play on. Next season, when we go interscholastic, we will conduct tryouts. I think its great that the girls want to be a part of the school's extra-curricular activities."

According to Mrs. Terry Kozloski, a parent who was beating the war drums before the School Department formally initiated the softball program, the School Committee acted "commendably" when they approved establishment of the ballclub. Mrs. Kozloski did remark however, that the School Department "dragged their feet" in the process. Mrs. Kozloski also said many school systems in the area are not in compliance with the law by refusing to establish girls teams on the Junior High level.

That infamous universal mandate Mrs. Kozloski is referring to is Title Nine under the Federal code and Chapter 622 on the state books. Both these laws call for "equal emphasis to boys and girls sports and that girls cannot be excluded from participating in so-called boys sports." In more definable terms, where there exists a boys squad, let there be a girls team too. Many nationwide school systems have fallen under this mandate under the threat of execution at sunrise if there is failure to comply.

Mrs. Kozloski said she became upset at the School

Department a few weeks ago. According to Mrs. Kozloski, she presented a parental petition to Superintendent Ernest Cannava at an October 24 assembly of the School Committee requesting the establishment of a girls softball and soccer squad at the Junior High. Following months of inactivity she pointed out, "the Superintendent finally brought the proposition before the School Committee a few weeks ago."

"When I presented this to Dr. Cannava last October, he said that the administration would see how the funds would go this year. As time progressed, I never really heard anything and then I was told there was no competition," she continued. "I called over a dozen athletic directors in the area and found competition in Northampton, Easthampton, Williston Academy, and Enfield."

At the March 14th gathering of the School Committee, Mrs. Kozloski became somewhat vocal with the seven elected officials and the superintendent. The air was charged to say the least. "Well, I just wanted to get my point of view across to them," she said.

Athletic Director Cliff Kibbe offered that the scheduling problems he encountered were perhaps the most telling factor in keeping the girls on an intra-mural basis this season. Bruno also pointed to the absence of a coach to run the program as another dilemma at the moment. "We have advertised the position and are waiting for response, especially from some of the area colleges," Bruno said. James Coon, Business Department Director for the system said that \$300 is being offered for the coaching position. "This is the same salary the ninth grade boys coach initially receives," Coon said.

Getting back to the scheduling process, Kibbe said there really is not a "feasible" slate of games for the girls right now. Kibbe did promise to do everything he could to seek competition for

the newest entry in the school system's athletic docket.

"Right now, basically Northampton offers the only real competition for the girls. The city schools do have a league for that age bracket but they refuse to play outside Springfield," Kibbe related. Kibbe said he attempted to sell the idea of Junior High girls competition to the area schools long ago, "but because of money and policy, they are not ready to come in with girls teams on the Junior High level."

Mrs. Kozloski believes the area school departments have not aggressively pushed girls sports, although she did concede Agawam has one of the better programs for the fairer side.

"Well, according to law,

everyone is supposed to have these programs but with tax cuts and tight fiscal budgets, I wouldn't even begin to guess when area schools will provide girls with interscholastic teams across the board," Kibbe commented.

Bruno said another problem facing the Junior High is their unique situation in that the ninth graders in the school are not part of the high school. "This causes a problem for us since some high schools are four year so their junior highs are grades 6-8 or 7-8. These places might not wish to play our squad which has ninth grade girls on it."

In retrospect, the school department has an excellent track record in setting up interscholastic sports for girls. The success local girls have experienced readily serve notice to that.

There are many talented lassies in the Junior High who wish to represent their school on the field of competition. No one is denying them that right. Laws or no laws, girls deserve to compete on their own teams, in their own leagues, just as the boys. If the school department appeared to be slow off the mark, well, just attribute it to the ills of bureaucracy. In this instance, they deserve a pat on the back and not a slap on the head.

Sportmen's Corner

by Bill Chiba

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service predicts that over \$966 million in Pittman Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds will be spent for wildlife conservation in the 1975-1985 decade. The funds are received from the 11% excise tax on guns, ammo, and other articles related to hunting. Over \$98 million will be used for hunter education programs in the same period.

A few months ago the Friends for the Animals filed a suit in federal court in front of a friendly judge asking that the moneys appropriated be halted until the Wildlife Service presented an Environmental Impact Study on the money doled out to the fifty states.

The Wildlife Service agreed and had a time limit in which to comply. However, the Friends of the Animals did not wait for an encompassing study. They petitioned the court and asked that an impact study be forthcoming from each state that received money for their various projects.

When the titular head of the Friends of the Animals was questioned about why they were doing this to the sportsmen because the money was theirs, she disagreed and stated, "The little old lady 80 years old who purchased a 25-caliber pistol for protection has a right to know how her tax is being spent." She further stated that their aim is to eliminate all hunting in the U.S., and the biggest step to attaining this goal is to nullify the Pittman Robertson Federal Aid.

The circumstances are ironic. The methods of the Friends of the Animals are ironic. They are, at last count, 100,000 strong, and the hunter is 30 million members strong.



We, the hunters and fishermen, fought diligently for the Environmental Impact Bill to be used to prevent the environment from being raped by indiscriminate builders and developers. The bill was passed statewide and federally.

The perpetrators of the bill never dreamed that the bill would be an instrument to be used by anti-groups who claim to be protectors of the animals and never have used one nickel of their vast wealth to assist the animals in the wild. They neuter cats and dogs and spend millions undercutting the money and programs of the various Wildlife Divisions on the state level are involved in to save the animals of the wild.

For example: in 1935, the U.S. duck population was estimated at 35 million. Today, more than 100 million make the annual migration.

Sportmen's dollars from license fees and excise taxes provide 77% of the annual income of state fish and wildlife agencies on a nationwide average. Only 4% on the average comes from general funds supplied by taxpayers. Our whole system of wildlife agencies is seriously threatened by the court case.

The money is available for use, but we cannot touch it until the case is settled. Some officials feel that years could elapse before a single dollar could be appropriated to a state.



The Agawam Athletic Association's 10-12 Lunden Construction team is pictured above. From left: first row - Kathy McLean, Heather Smith, Pam Rowen, Kathy Schindler. Second row - Gina Letellier, Sue Goehlert and Shari Brooks. Third row - coach Karl Goehlert and assistant coach Karol Goehlert.



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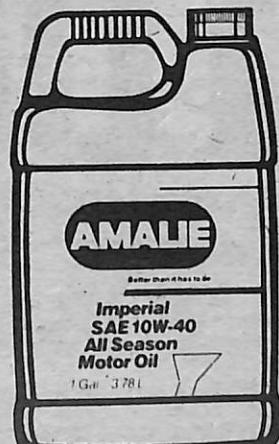
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Agawam Sophomore Pitches AIC Baseball

The American International College baseball team opened its 1979 season recently with a doubleheader against the University of Hartford.

One of the bright spots on this year's team is Steve Mercadante, a sophomore from Feeding Hills.

Mercadante was one of the first bullpen pitchers that Head Coach Rich Bedard went to last year, as well as having been a spot starter. He was 3-4 last year including a complete game win over Williams College.

Coach Bedard will be using him again this year mostly for long relief and spot starting.

Bedard says of Steve, "He has one of the most devastating curve balls in

college ball. When he has his curve working, he is very tough to hit. I hope that with a year of experience behind him now, he will be our ace reliever and maybe move into the starting rotation if he can throw well this year."

The AIC accounting major is a graduate of Agawam High school, where he starred in baseball. He was selected All-League two straight years and All-Western Mass. in his senior year.

With only two seniors on this year's team, Steve is one of the players that AIC is looking at to provide a strong nucleus for the next three years.

Steve is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Mercadante of 523 Mill Street, Feeding Hills.

Agawam Little League Tryouts Slated

The Agawam Little League will have try outs for the spring teams. Any player who was on a team last year, and will be in the same division, need not come to the try outs. All players, new to the league or new to a division, should come to the try outs. This will enable the coaches to form teams for the coming season. Everyone will be put on a team.

Those joining the Major Division will meet at the Little League Field, Saturday, April 14th, at 10:00 A.M. This session should last about two hours. Also, plan on coming again the same day for further viewing. You will be told the time when you come in the morning.

Minor League Division will meet on Saturday, April 21st at the Little League Field, at 10:00 A.M. This also will last about two hours. Only one session is planned.

There are still positions open for anyone in the age range of 13 to 15, who has not

signed up as of that date. Come to the field, if you wish to join, on April 14th.

Everyone should remember to bring their favorite glove.

The league would also like to be informed of any person wanting to be umpires or coaches. We now have coaches and managers in the league who are happily contributing their time and have no child playing.

Therefore, if you wish to contribute some of your time, let us know who you are. It is a great opportunity to give your knowledge of the game... And isn't it a great way to exercise!

If you have any questions, come to the Little League Field, behind Phelps School's playground, on either April 14th or April 21st at 10:00 A.M. Or call Mr. Sibilia at 786-7443.

Come and have your child join a great organization for children. All get a chance to field and bat.



The Agawam Athletic Association's 10-12 Agawam Lions are shown above. (all left to right) First Row: Michael Mezzetti, Chris Olko, Chuck Losito, and Steve Allen. Second Row: Paul Chenevert, Tony Lucia and Paul Nolan. Third row: Scott Cofer, Dean LeClerc, Coach Leslie Clark, and Eric Lunden.

Blackhawks Still Alive In The Playoffs

Spectacular goaltending by Dave Liptak has kept the Agawam Blackhawks' chances alive in the final week of the season.

Dave has been truly tested this week, but has come through with efforts that have been outstanding.

The Blackhawks, coached by Ed Drewnowski, have two wins and one loss to show for their efforts. On Saturday, March 24, they played a tough East Longmeadow and were fortunate to win 2-1.

Goals were scored by Kevin Mercadante and John O'Malley. Each also had an assist, as did Dennis Drewnowski.

The second playoff victory came on Sunday, March 25, against 16 Acres. The final score was 4-2.

Goals in that game were scored by John O'Malley, Dean Liptak, Paul Ferraro, and Kevin Mercadante. They were assisted by Mike Santori, Erik Blanchard, and Joe Dussault.

The Blackhawks only loss came on Monday, March 26,

when they went down to Van Horn. The score was again 4-2, but this time Agawam was on the losing end.

Erik Blanchard scored first from the point on a nice pass from Kevin Mercadante. John Spellacy scored from in close, with an assist from Dean Liptak.

The Blackhawks also played two independent games during the last week. In a game that was well-played for two out of three periods, the Jr. Whalers defeated Agawam 5-2. Goals were scored by Paul Ferraro and John Spellacy, with assists from Jay Passerini and Chris Juzba.

The Blackhawks breezed to an 8-0 win over Greenfield. Dean Liptak scored three goals for the hat trick to lead the way.

Other goals were scored by Bill Beauregard, John O'Malley, Jay Passerini, and Kevin Mercadante. Assists came from Mike Santori, Dennis Drewnowski, Joe Dussault, Peter Sibilia, and Dean Liptak.



The Agawam Athletic Association's 8-10 St. Anthony's team is pictured above. (all from left to right) first row: Steven Campbell, Harry Minet, David Consolini, and Jim Christian. Second row: Paul Sandlin, Joni Cichetti, and Jeff O'Keefe. Third row: Jim Consolini, coach and John Sandlin.

Southwick Hockey News

Playoffs have started and the games have been very exciting right down to the buzzer. The Green Machine, Southwick's 8-10 Police, lost a squeaker to Agawam, 1-0. They then came back to beat 16 Acres 5-4 in a fast-skating, ping-pong type game.

Skip Hathaway had a hat trick for the Green Machine, with Russell Sabadosa and Patrick McDonnell scoring the other two goals.

Robbie Haramut had three assists in the game, assisting Hathaway in the winning goal. Ronnie Hebert played an excellent game on defense, while Scott Gentry and Darcie Rock played hard in the corners.

Joey Gentry has been very good in goal.

In the third game, Southwick lost a tough one to South Hadley, 3-1. Andre Chabot scored the lone goal with Russell Sabadosa assisting. The Green Machine just couldn't get started and penalties didn't help matters.

The Southwick Police have played outstanding hockey all season long. Keep up the good work, Green Machine.

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Suburban Baseball Tryouts Slated

Sacred Heart of Feeding Hills will enter the 14-16 Suburban Baseball League this season. Tryouts will be held on Saturday, April 7 at 4:00 p.m. at the Agawam High School diamond. Any boy 14 to 16 years old and a resident of Agawam is welcome to try out.

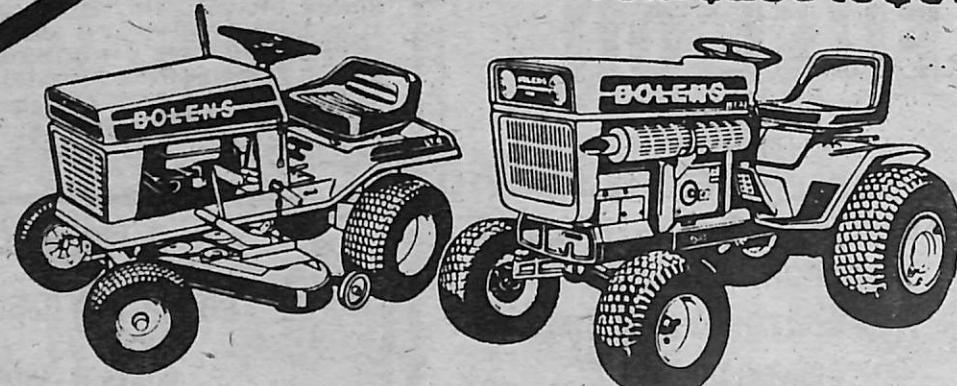
Ron Rondoletto, Ralph Albano, and Phil Vecchiarelli

will be on the coaching staff. For further information, call 786-2696 or 786-4048.

Sarat Ford will also sponsor a team in this league and will hold tryouts for their team on April 8 at 1:00 p.m. at the high school field. For further information, contact Ed Morace at 786-6183.

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Early Vehicle Inspection Urged For Mass. Motorists

Registrar Richard E. McLaughlin has announced the annual spring motor vehicle inspection will be held from April 1 to May 15.

With more than 3½ million vehicles registered in the Commonwealth, the registrar urges businesses and individuals to make an effort to get vehicles inspected as soon as possible.

He also urges operators to perform a "personal inspection" prior to driving the vehicle to a Registry-approved station.

The spring sticker is rectangular, yellow in color, and has a picture of a Registry of Motor Vehicles safety car on the window side.

Inside, passengers will see a design featuring a seat-belted child with the warning, "Safety Seats for the Life of your Child." Also on the inside is the slogan "Safety Starts Here!" selected by the

registrar from the recently-held slogan contest.

The inspection fee remains the same: \$2 for vehicles and 50¢ for trailers.

Contrary to common belief, the fees paid for inspection remain with the station and are not turned back to the Registry. In fact, the cost of printing the stickers, which is in excess of \$20,000 each printing, is borne by the Registry.

Inspection includes brakes, lights, horn, exhaust system, steering, windshield and wipers, number plate, rear window, tires, fenders, bumpers, external sheet metal, and the factory-installed pollution control system. Inspection of reflectors, chock blocks, and splash guards is included on trucks.

Registrar McLaughlin noted mopeds and foot-driven bicycles are exempt from inspection.



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Welcome to my World

by Charles Duclos

"O'B's Gals Get Theirs"

The two fifth grades of the Danahy Elementary School were treated on Thursday, March 29, to a field trip, which was directed at expanding their career awareness, as well as their knowledge of science and health.

Under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to the Cultural Educational Collaborative in Springfield, Ma. Gloria Kenney of the Springfield Science Museum arranged for the classes to tour the health facilities at Springfield Technical Community College.

The young people along with their teachers, Mrs. Linda Williams and Mr. Louis Spiro, were led through the X-ray room, physical therapy section, radiology and operating rooms by Helen Brezenzki, R.N., head of the allied health division of the college. After viewing the dental hygiene section and the blood-culture laboratory, the classes completed this phase with lunch at the cafeteria.

To keep the young people in top physical condition, each student paid his/her own way for a mid-afternoon of fun, motion, and speed at the Rollaway in Agawam. They were joined by their teachers and some of the parents, who cut a fine figure on the four wheelers.

Through the explorative program at STCC, the children gained valuable insight into the world of medicine, both preventative and rehabilitative. Each will have many possible careers to consider for the future.

This tour, coupled with the roller skating, had another important but subtle lesson—the need for not only a sound mind, but also a healthy body.

How did the kids react?

Tracy Nichols—I liked the physical therapy the best. Micheline Johnson—I liked the chemistry room. Richard Mutti—I liked the movie of the operating room. Deanne Duclos, Gina Nascimbeni, and Shelli Marra liked the dog's heart. A good percentage also liked the roller skating.

Good things come to those who wait. Last fall the girls' 16 and under and 12 and under soccer teams, sponsored by the Agawam Athletic Association and playing in the Pioneer Valley League, copped their respective division title.

At that time a lack of funding prevented their receiving both trophies and jackets. The trophies came at their fall banquet; however, the jackets arrived only after a car wash, bake sale, and making and selling Christmas wreaths.

The traditional orange windbreakers, carrying the A.A.A. name and insignia, as well as each participant's first name inscribed on the front, were presented at a pot-luck supper on March 18.

Held at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills, Jerry Mason, the 3 A's president, offered comments on last year's performance and an optimistic hope for the forthcoming season.

Coach Bill O'Brien and his assistants, Warren Barr and Shari Baldarelli, were on hand to congratulate the girls and to assist Jerry in the distribution of the coveted awards.

Those receiving jackets from O'B's 12 and under team were Lisa Chevalier, Diane Goodman, Jennifer O'Brien, Michelle and Deanne Duclos, Andrea Tebaldi, Julie Miodowski, Amy Vacirca, Katie Slamon, Pat and Katie Landry, Lena Kazlowski, Michelle Quaglini, Pam Rowen, Lee Ann Sandlin, SueEllen Goehlert, and Kelly Slamon.

From the 13-16 ranks, jackets and best wishes went to Kelly Lizewski, Lori Costa, Debbie Dalton, Chris Altobelli, Karen Mazza, Renee Dalton, Tammy "T" Fassnacht, Kathy LaGrange, Maria Kozloski, Mary Morrow, Linda Kunasek, Diane Ouellette, Lisa LaFrancis, Liz Riley, Kim Stoll, TerriAnn Ouellette, Jan Andriachak, Susan Bodurtha, and Mary Kamyk.

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School

Lunch Menus

Agawam School Menu

Wednesday, April 4: Orange juice, macaroni w/meat sauce, creamy cole slaw, buttered Italian bread, cherry jello w/whipped topping, milk

Thursday, April 5: Oven-baked chicken, whipped potatoes, cranberry sauce, buttered sweet peas, whole wheat bread & butter, school-baked peanut butter cookies, milk

Friday, April 6: Filet of haddock sandwich, buttered corn kernels, oven French fries, tartar sauce or ketchup, ice cream, milk

Monday, April 9: Potted beef cubes in gravy on mashed potatoes, buttered diced carrots, dinner roll w/butter, chocolate pudding w/ whip topping, milk

Tuesday, April 10: Cheese pizza w/hamburg topping, tossed garden salad w/ shredded carrots & French dressing, ½ peanut butter sandwich for seconds, chilled fruit cup, milk

Wednesday, April 11: Roasted turkey w/brown gravy on mashed potatoes, buttered sweet peas & carrots, cranberry sauce, bread & butter, sweet potato cake, milk

Thursday, April 12: Baked pork cutlet w/applesauce, buttered corn niblets, rye bread & butter, ice cream, milk

Friday, April 13: NO SCHOOL — GOOD FRIDAY

Southwick School Menu

Wednesday, April 4: Beef & cheese pizza on English muffin, buttered corn, chilled fruit cup, milk

Thursday, April 5: Roast turkey w/brown gravy, whipped potatoes, buttered peas, bread & butter, cranberry sauce, cookies, milk

Friday, April 6: Fishburger on bun, potato rounds, cole slaw, orange jello w/topping, milk

Monday, April 9: Tomato rice soup, saltines, baked cheese sandwich, tossed salad w/dressing, chocolate pudding w/topping, milk

Tuesday, April 10: Cheeseburger on bun, French fries, buttered peas, chilled applesauce, milk

Wednesday, April 11: Beef in gravy, whipped potatoes, buttered green beans, bread & butter, apple crisp, milk

Thursday, April 12: Tacos w/lettuce, tomatoes, and cheese, Mexican corn, chilled peaches, milk

Friday, April 13: NO SCHOOL — GOOD FRIDAY

Agawam Senior Center

Wright Street

4/4: Knockwurst, sauerkraut, sweet potatoes, fresh fruit

4/5: Chicken croquettes, rice, carrots, jello

4/6: Soup, tuna sandwich, potato chips, rice pudding

4/9: Baked beans, wieners, coleslaw, pears

4/10: Lamb patties, mashed potatoes, stewed tomatoes, cookies

4/11: Beef chow mein, rice, chocolate cake w/frosting

4/12: Oven baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, broccoli, applesauce

4/13: Fish, potato puffs, green beans, lemon pudding

Dr. Haynes Foot Clinic: April 4

Copies of photos appearing in this issue may be obtained by calling Jack Devine at 789-0053.

Special Needs Camp Planned

The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department will again operate Camp Rainbow, a camp for special needs children of Agawam between the ages of 3 and 21.

This camp is co-sponsored by the Agawam School

Department's Special Education Division and will again be held at Robinson Park School beginning Thursday, July 5 and continuing through Friday, August 17 daily Monday through Friday.

Applications are being accepted at the Parks and Recreation office for the following positions:

Camp Director, 4 senior counselors (1 for arts and crafts, 1 for physical exercise, 1 for music, and 1 for aquatics), 3 junior counselors (1 each in exercise, crafts, and aquatics), 1 health counselor, and 1 speech therapist.

The camp proposal limits the number of special needs children to 40. Many volunteers are needed to aid in the everyday operation. The state and federal governments will reimburse 50% of the camp's cost through 766.

Each camper will be bused, and applications for campers will be available beginning April 1st.

Down to Earth

by Janet Cook



As the season rapidly draws near for vegetable gardening, I want to talk about the great advantages of "companion planting" for the garden.

Plants that assist each other to grow well, plants that repel insects, and plants that repel other plants are all of great use in gardening.

Not all protective plants act quickly. Marigolds that can be effective in insect control should be grown at least one full season and then turned under in the fall. Nasturtiums grown in a fruit orchard should be plowed under so that the trees can take up the protective ingredients from the decomposing plants.

In our daily lives, we all need friends, and so in the plant world as well. A major enemy of the carrot is the carrot fly, and the leek suffers from the onion fly and leek moth. When these two vegetables are planted side by side or in alternating rows, the companionship is shared by both. The strong and strangely different smell of the partner plant repels the insects so much that they don't even attempt to lay their eggs on the neighbor plant.

The same situation exists with kohlrabi and radishes when they live with lettuce. Both are afflicted with earth flies, but when the flies get the odor of the lettuce, they take

to the hills.

There is an old story I would like to relate to you on this subject that seems to hold true today. There was this farmer who took his cattle to the same pasture year after year. In time, due to the manure dropped, there were some very green spots, yet the cows refused to eat this grass.

One day he pastured his horse and some sheep in this meadow, and they greedily ate this very green grass. For them, it tasted good.

A young apple tree planted where an old apple tree had been removed withered and died. Yet a young cherry tree put in exactly the same spot grew like a weed.

The moral of the story is that the root and leaf secretions left in the soil by the old apple tree were like poison to the young apple tree, but for the cherry tree, it was welcome nutrition. The type of grass that sprouted from the manure left by the cows tasted sour to them, but was like dessert for the horse and sheep.

Certain plants put desirable nutrients into the soil for other plants and are sure to death to others. Companion planting, when done with some care, can benefit plants and man as well.

KEEP SMILING! JMC

Programs On Vegetables Planned

Looking for new ways to prepare vegetables for your family? The Hampden County Extension Service will conduct Vegetables in Family Meals programs at various locations in the upcoming weeks.

On Wednesday, April 4, there will be one at the Forest Park Library, 380 Belmont Avenue, Springfield, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

On Monday, April 9, a program will be held at the Westfield Atheneum, 6 Elm Street, Westfield, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

One will be at the Wilbraham Library on

Wednesday, April 11, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., and a final one will be on Thursday, April 12, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Extension Office, 1499 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield.

Suzanne Gabriel, Extension Community Nutritionist, will discuss the importance of vegetables in diet, will demonstrate a vegetable dish for you to taste, and will share other new vegetable ideas with you.

The presentations are free and open to the public regardless of race, color, or national origin.

The YMCA In Agawam Part I — Its History

In October of 1954, the Agawam Community YMCA was organized as a branch of the Springfield "Y," with Joseph P. McMahon, Jr. as the first chairman. The programs, which utilized community facilities including Day Camping in Robinson State Park, operated at first under the staff direction of Peter Sarantopoulos out of a small office on Walnut Street. In 1957, it became a separate, incorporated YMCA.

One day he pastured his horse and some sheep in this meadow, and they greedily ate this very green grass. For them, it tasted good.

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Certain plants put desirable nutrients into the soil for other plants and are sure to death to others. Companion planting, when done with some care, can benefit plants and man as well.

KEEP SMILING! JMC

Soon after the first land was purchased, a large outdoor pool was constructed. Many townspeople contributed to make this possible, along with a contribution from the Dexter Fund.

In November of 1966, after extensive study and with the advice of the Community Council, the United Fund, and the New England Area Council YMCA and with the unanimous agreement of the Agawam Board and the Metropolitan Springfield Board, the Agawam Community YMCA Inc. merged with the Metropolitan Springfield YMCA. It is still under this arrangement today.

Since its inception, the YMCA in Agawam has had a small staff with frequent turnover and financial

struggles. Its influence and programs of the past were perhaps at their peak from 1968 to 1973.

The 1972 Annual Report lists 835 swimming tests passed, 890 different members, and a total of 548 camper slots filled. Many prominent individuals in town donated their time that year, and several businesses and service clubs were also involved.

Brady D. Snyder was the Chairman of the Board that year, and in his report, he says, "It is rewarding to know that the hours spent planning our pavilion will be a reality before the summer '73 camp takes off. During the year, the development of the Agawam Mini-Bike Club, as a service to youths with bikes, has been a real first that can be looked upon with pride. Another area of real growth the past two years has been the Small World Pre-School program which numbers 63 and can be looked upon with satisfaction of a truly needed service offered."

Mr. John R. Lewis was the fulltime Executive Director that year.

In the recent past, the Agawam "Y" has not seen nearly as much activity and involvement, but this past summer season of 1978 saw an increase of 60 new family members and a resurgence of the Day Camping program. Finally, after a few years without a lay committee at all, a group of members are beginning to put in some hard work and making plans for summer 1979.

(Next-Part II-The Present)

Garden Club Will Meet

The Agawam Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 10, at the Capt. Leonard House, Main Street, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The speaker for this month's meeting will be Ron Kujawski on the topic of "Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces and Containers." Slides will be presented with questions and answers to follow.

Mr. Kujawski is a trustee for Berkshire Garden Center and is employed at the Hampden County Cooperative Extension Service. His responsibilities include Community Resource Development and also Home Horticulture.

Those interested in new and different ideas in small-spaced gardening are welcome to attend.

Gardening Advice Offered

Tis the season for making those gardening plans. The avid gardener is ready to begin soil preparations in anticipation of warm weather and a good crop.

Careful conditioning is needed if the soil is to be ready for planting. To help with these preparations, the Hampden County Extension Service offers a series of publications free of charge to the public along with varieties and other aspects of gardening.

To obtain these brochures, write to the Extension Service, 1499 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089 or call 736-7204.

Container Gardening Workshop Offered

Spring is really just around the corner, and soon everyone will be thinking of various outdoor activities.

Ron Kujawski, Hampden County Extension horticulturist, will present a workshop on growing food plants in containers on Thursday, April 5, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the YWCA, 26

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Pasture Care Program

Overgrazing and poor fences - a problem for many livestock owners - will be the topic of a slide series and lecture on April 4th, reports Patricia Libby-Jensen, Hampden County 4-H Agent.

The pasture management meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Hampden County Improvement League building, 1499 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, starting at 7:30 p.m.

University of Massachusetts Animal Science professor Sidney Lyford will explain soil testing, fertilization, planting, parasite control, and grazing management in relation to small farm owners. Dr. Lyford will direct his talk toward owners of beef, sheep, dairy, and horses.

Dr. Lyford is well known among Extension personnel for his competence and special interest in livestock feeding practices. He is a back-up for regional agents on feeding problems.

County Extension Agent Libby-Jensen says the April 4th meeting is particularly important from the standpoint of reducing costs and increasing quality of small livestock herds. The meeting, which is open to the public regardless of race, color, or national origin, is sponsored by the Hampden County Extension Service.

Meetings Set to Inform on Enrollment

Mr. James Loomis, Jr., coordinator of the Enrollment Studies Committee for the town of Agawam, announces the following schedule of meetings which will be held to inform the residents of town of the results of their study.

Phelps School: April 4 at 7:30

Robinson: April 5 at 7:30
Clark: April 9 at 7:30
Danahy: April 11 at 7:30
Granger: April 12 at 7:30
Peirce: April 30 at 7:30

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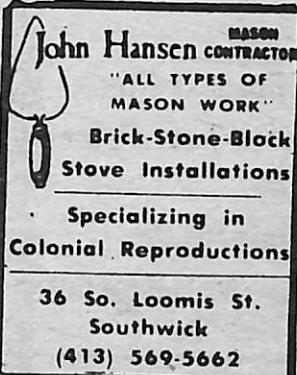
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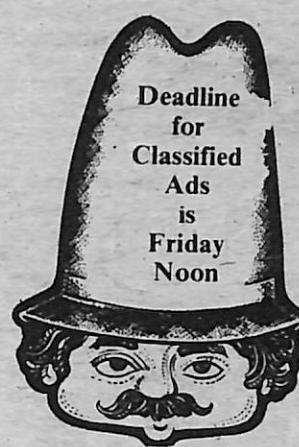
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